most useless. We should much like, for the sake of our geological as well as entomological readers, to give a translation of his prefatory observations, which contain a synopsis of all that is yet known of fossil entomology, and also many useful observations directing us in the determination of the existence of insects without their actual presence; and in methods for facilitating the discovery of collateral evidence of the same fact: to this however we may possibly return, as it is a subject replete with interest. The application of trivial names to such mutilated remains is a vain and hopeless endeavour to enlarge our knowledge of species, and can scarcely answer any end, especially when we reflect what nice discrimination is frequently required to determine recent species, in the best state of preservation; and in a fossil state the same individual species, from the variety of states of preservation in which it may come down to us, would be thus propagated into as many species, from their presenting no tangible means of identification. All therefore that we can reasonably hope for in fossil entomology is a knowledge of the genera peculiar to certain geological formations and their contemporaneous zoology and botany. Of course it will be understood that we exclude from this sweeping condemnation insects preserved in amber and copal, in which substances they usually retain their pristine perfection. We must however be thankful that this uninviting task has fallen into hands which can enliven with great interest a subject apparently so barren.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

Feb. 18.—The Lord Bishop of Norwich, President, in the Chair.

Mr. George T. Fox, F.L.S., exhibited a specimen of the *Phrynosoma cornutum* (Agama cornuta of Harlan) from Texas.

Mr. Cameron, A.L.S., presented a specimen of a new fern (Cibotium Baromez, J. Sm.) which has lately borne fructification, for the first time in this country, in the garden of the Birmingham Horticultural Society. A description of the plant by Mr. Westcott accompanied the specimen. The fern has been cultivated for some years in the gardens as the Agnus Scythicus or Vegetable Lamb (Polypodium Baromez, Linn.), but whether identical with the plant of Linnæus is a question still undetermined, as there happens to be no specimen in his herbarium, and the description alone is too meagre to settle the point. Mr. Westcott is however in possession of a specimen of a fern collected in Mexico by Mr. Ross, which closely resembles the plant of the gardens, and should they prove to be identical, all doubt will be removed as to the claims of the present plant to be regarded as the Baromez of Linnæus, which is a native of China.

The following is Mr. Westcott's description of the species:-

Rhizoma densely clothed with yellow woolly articulated hairs. Stipes about 7 feet high, roundish, of a dark reddish brown colour, more or less covered with tufts of woolly hairs near the base, naked for about half its height: upper part flexuous from the point where the pinnæ commence. Frond bipinnate; pinnæ alternate, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, smooth, under surface glaucous, upper surface

"Notice of a curious Aquatic Larva found in a water-jug at Twizel;" by P. J. Selby, Esq.—"Case of Andrew Mitchel, aged 10 years, from whose nose Larvæ of a coleopterous Insect were discharged."—"Notice of the Myliobates Aquila of Cuvier, or Eagle Ray of Yarrell;" by Dr. Johnston: a specimen has been taken in Berwick Bay.—"Contributions to the Flora of Berwickshire;" by Mr. James Hardy.

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